

TO BUILD SHIPS AT COST PRICE

Bethlehem Steel Will Make Offer to Uncle Sam.

BIDS ON 16 INCH NAVY SHELLS

No Chance For Profit In Them Under Present Tests, Grace Says—Possible Explanation of the Prices Made by an English Firm Which Bids Under All American Manufacturers.

Speaking recently before the Terrapin Club of Philadelphia, Eugene G. Grace, President of the Bethlehem Steel Company, said in part:

In a peculiar sense Bethlehem Steel serves the American people.

For example, though we have been able to obtain in Europe almost any price, we have adhered, in our charges to the United States Government, to the basis of prices established before the war began.

We agreed—if the Government would abandon its plans for a Federal plant—to make armor for our Navy at any price the Government itself might consider fair.

Our ordnance plants are at the disposal of the nation at a fair operating cost, plus a small margin, thus saving the Government investment and depreciation.

One of the special needs of the new navy is sixteen-inch guns—guns sixty feet long and capable of hurling a 2000 pound shell with such power and accuracy as to hit a 50 foot square target fifteen miles away.

We have undertaken voluntarily to construct, at a cost of \$4,500,000, a plant fitted to build sixteen-inch guns.

Under no conceivable circumstances can orders which we may receive for this plant pay even a fair return on the investment.

Considerable comment has been made upon the fact that a British manufacturer recently bid less than American manufacturers for sixteen and fourteen-inch shells for the navy.

I am unable to state the basis upon which the English bid was made. It should be remembered, however, that this bid was for a specific shell, samples of which are being sent over for test—a test not yet made.

Two years ago we took an order for 2400 fourteen-inch armor-piercing shells at a contract price of \$738,000, to be delivered within a certain time or we had to pay a large penalty.

The only specifications for making these shells are that they shall be of a certain size and must pierce armor-plate at a certain velocity on impact. It is impossible to foretell the exact conditions of the tests.

We had made large quantities of shells in the past which had been accepted. But in placing this particular order the Department altered the angle at which the tested shells must pierce armor-plate. The result, however, has been absolute inability on our part to produce in any quantity, shells which will meet these novel tests. In fact, we know of no process of projectile-making through which it is possible to produce in quantities shells which will conform to the requirements.

The result is that up to now on that contract of \$738,000, we have put into actual operating expense \$147,881, and have been penalized for non-delivery \$405,744, a total of \$553,625, with no receipts whatever.

Such was the experience in the light of which we were called upon recently to bid for sixteen-inch shells.

We bid on these shells at approximately the same rate per pound as that of a fourteen-inch shell contract of one year ago upon which the Government awarded contracts.

We have not the slightest idea what profit there will be in the making of these shells. We do not know that there will be any. There is no certainty that it would be possible for us to deliver a shell to meet the test.

For officers in the Navy to assume that any bid made under such conditions is "exorbitant" is utterly unfair.

We bid on the new battle-cruisers sums which Navy department experts, after examination of our books, found would yield a profit of less than ten per cent. We agreed to assume risks for increased costs of materials and labor, that made it possible that these contracts might yield no profit whatever.

The costs run beyond the amount appropriated by Congress on the basis of the cost estimates made a year ago.

And because shipbuilders could not alter the inexorable cost facts and reduce bids to early estimates of the Navy Department, the prices are called "exorbitant."

It would be a real advantage to be relieved of this naval construction. The profit from it cannot possibly amount to much, and the responsibility is enormous.

We have determined to make this offer to the American Government.

"If you will build two of the battle-cruisers in Government navy yards, we will build the other two at the ascertained cost of building the ships in the Government yards, without additional expense or commissions of any kind. We will also contract to have our ships ready for service ahead of

Lester Langdon Is Dead

"Clipping of a Clinton paper"

Lester E. Langdon, the only son of Mrs. E. J. Langdon, formerly of Wapella, died Sunday in Louisville, Kentucky, while undergoing an operation. Particulars have not arrived here, but friends in Wapella and Clinton received telegrams yesterday notifying them of the death. Mr. Langdon had been ill since early in December and had been removed to Louisville, Ky., where he was professor of history in Union College.

Mr. Langdon, though never a resident of Clinton, is mourned by a host of Clinton people, for he had associated with friends here during his school life and had been a leader in many social events. He was a member of the Clinton band for several years playing first clarinet, and even after he had left here to attend college and later during his teaching career, he had been a member of the band during his vacation. He was extremely popular among the band boys and was quite talented in this branch of music.

He graduated from the Clinton high school in the class of 1912, being an officer of that class and one of the most popular members of it. During the four years he attended high school here he lived in Wapella with his mother, who conducted the hotel in that place, and his particular attention to his mother during those years was commented upon many times.

After leaving the high school he attended college in Westminster, Maryland, graduating from that institution. In the meantime he taught school and during his vacation three years ago, was connected with a musical company on a chautauqua lyceum bureau, traveling principally through Iowa. During his other vacations he remained in Wapella with his mother.

The death is particularly sad owing to the lonely condition of the mother. There were no other children and the husband had died in Maroa several years ago. Within the last year Mrs. Langdon had disposed of her hotel in Wapella and was living with her son in Kentucky.

The telegrams which have been received here state that the burial will be Wednesday in Maroa where Mr. Langdon's father is buried. The exact hour of the arrival nor arrangements had not been received other than that the Masonic lodge of Clinton had been requested by the lodge at Westminster, Maryland, where he was a member, to perform the Masonic services. The members of the high school class of 1912 will also attend in a body.

Mr. Langdon was about twenty-five years of age and his success in his chosen profession was remarkable.

In an address before the Jobbers' Association of Dress Fabric Buyers, recently, James Keeley, owner and editor-in-chief of the Chicago Herald (Dem.) is quoted as saying: "In England capital and labor have both learned the lesson that they must work for the benefit of the State and there American efficiency methods now rule". And yet it was only a few days ago that Secretary Redfield berated American manufacturers as the "wasters of the world", and scored them severely for their inefficiency. Evidently England does not take the same view of our factory operators.

An article appearing in the New York Journal of Commerce on the Federal Advisory Council says, "in the twenty-six months of its existence even its own members have not been clear as to what its real functions are". Apparently they are in a plight

Barbourville High School

Monday at Chapel exercises, the Attendance-Punctuality Banner was awarded to Prof. Odfield's room, the sophomore and senior grades, as they had the highest average. But a glance at the averages below will show how closely all the rooms ranked this week.

Prof. Odfield	—96.80%
Miss Barton	—96.30%
Prof. Mills	—96.00 "
Prof. Faulkner	—95.92%
Miss Parker	—95.84%
Miss Pelly	—95.71 "
Miss Prater	—93.34 "

This makes a general average of 95.65 per cent for the entire school and this is a record of which we should be proud.

Rev Creal, of the Baptist Church led the chapel exercises Monday morning and we are glad indeed to welcome this new pastor into our midst, and hope he will come again soon.

Below are the names of the students of the entire school who have been neither tardy nor absent during the last month end-

ing last Friday:

First Grade.
Martha Parker, Lula Mills, Marola Belle King, Mary Elizabeth Maine, Catron Jackson, Robert Sowder, Maurice Rogers, Winifred Beets.

Secs Grade.
Randa Archibald, Lena Hershberg, Stanley Foulkner, James Gregory, Walter Messer, George Smith.

Third Grade.
Lallah Faulkner, Lois Catron, Lena Hammonds, Prince Surgenor, Wm. Henry Knuckles, Ernest Brittain.

Fourth Grade.
Etta Beddow, Addie Sowders, Charlie Bowman, Alma Archibald.

Fifth Grade, B.
Nellie Gray, Lowell Hughes, Orville Surgenor, Maurice Maine, Maurice Jones, Lula Messer.

Fifth Grade A.
John Cole, Clara Smith, William Faulkner.

Sixth Grade.
Robert Cole, Mary Faulkner, Nora Walker, Everett Hutton, Howard Fox, Thomas Hignite.

Seventh Grade.
Chas. Bingham, Bobbie Golden, Gladys George, Annie D. Fuller, Ethel Miller, Elmer Parker, Zora Surgenor, Rosa Messer, Gladys Nicholson.

Freshman.
Leonard Rogers.
Sophomore.
Ora George, Sibyl Harris, Myrtle Riley, Rosa Beets, Lelia Nicholson, Goebel Hawn, Hugh Miller, William Smith, Wm. Martin.

For a Billious Attack.

When you have a severe headache, accompanied by a coated tongue, loathing of food, constipation, torpid liver, vomiting of partly digested food and then bile, you may know that you have a severe bilious attack. While you may be quite sick there is much consolation in knowing that relief may be had by taking three of Chamberlain's Tablets. They are prompt and effectual. Obtainable everywhere.

The Treasury deficit on January 16th was \$140,871,290, compared with \$60,869,672, same date, 1915. This is exclusive of Panama Canal and public debt transactions. Clap on the taxes!

THE THRICE-A-WEEK EDITION OF THE NEW YORK WORLD. Practically a Daily at the Price of a Weekly. No other Newspaper in the world gives so much at so low a price.

The value and need of a newspaper in the household was never greater than at the present time. The great war in Europe is now half-way into its third year, and whether peace be at hand or yet be far off, it and the events to follow it are sure to be of absorbing interest for many a month to come.

These are world shaking affairs, in which the United States, willing or unwilling, is compelled to take a part. No intelligent person can ignore such issues.

THE THRICE-A-WEEK WORLD'S regular subscription price is only \$1.00 per year, and this pays for 166 papers. We offer this unequalled newspaper and THE MOUNTAIN ADVOCATE together for \$1.50.

The regular subscription price of the two papers is \$2.00.

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Yes,
Gentlemen-All,
Clean—CLEAN
CLEAR Through!



You have to go some to keep up a reputation as a Southern gentleman—a SOVEREIGN—King of Them All. Yes, sir! I bet I get more attention than any youngster on earth!

The folks in the factory are always at me to keep clean and sweet and pure.

You Folks of the South KNOW good blood!
You Folks of the South KNOW good tobacco!

So a clean, sweet, wholesome cigarette makes heaps of friends down South." And you, friend, I would like to know you too! So here's another big thing to think about—

I am guaranteed by *The American Tobacco Co.* —Buy me. If you don't like me return me to your dealer and get your money back. I have said it. A Southern gentleman is known the world over for keeping his word, and I have given you mine.

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"King of Them All"